

Amend claims 1 and 7; cancel claims 3 and 4; and add claims 12-18 as follows:

1. (amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a discharge vessel (10),
2 said discharge vessel (10) enclosing a discharge space (18) containing a filling of mercury and an
3 inert gas in a gastight manner, and said discharge vessel (10) comprising:
4 tubular end portions (11; 11'), which each have a longitudinal axis (12; 12'),
5 electrodes (20; 20') arranged in the discharge space (18) for generating and maintaining a
6 discharge in the discharge space (18),
7 and at least an auxiliary amalgam (27) provided on a carrier (25; 25') in the discharge
8 vessel (10) in the proximity of at least one of the electrodes (20; 20'),
9 characterized in that
10 at least a part (25A) of the carrier (25; 25') is arranged in a plane transverse to the
11 longitudinal axis (12; 12'), and
12 the auxiliary amalgam extends substantially in two mutually orthogonal directions
13 transverse to said longitudinal axis, and is disposed substantially in line with said at least one of the
14 electrodes in a direction parallel with said longitudinal axis.

7. (twice amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the carrier (25; 25') is arranged at a side of the electrode (20; 20') facing away from the
discharge space (18).

12. (added) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein said part
(25A) of the carrier is a substantially planar structure arranged in said plane.

13. (added) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 12, wherein
the carrier (25; 25') comprises at least one further part (25B) which is arranged in a plane parallel to
the longitudinal axis (12; 12').

14. (added) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 13, wherein
the carrier (25; 25') is directly press-fitted onto a stem (21, 21') which carries the electrode (20,

20') in the tubular end portion (11, 11').

15.(added) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a discharge vessel (10),
1 said discharge vessel (10) enclosing a discharge space (18) containing a filling of mercury and an
2 inert gas in a gastight manner, and said discharge vessel (10) comprising:
3 tubular end portions (11; 11'), which each have a longitudinal axis (12; 12'),
4 electrodes (20; 20') arranged in the discharge space (18) for generating and maintaining a
5 discharge in the discharge space (18),
6 and at least an auxiliary amalgam (27) provided on a carrier (25; 25') in the discharge
7 vessel (10) in the proximity of at least one of the electrodes (20; 20'),
8 characterized in that
9 at least a part (25A) of the carrier (25; 25') is arranged in a plane transverse to the
10 longitudinal axis (12; 12'),
11 the auxiliary amalgam extends substantially in two orthogonal directions transverse to
12 said longitudinal axis, and is disposed substantially in line with said at least one of the electrodes in
13 a direction parallel with said longitudinal axis, and
14 the supporting body is formed by an exhaust tube (26) which extends at least partially
15 into the discharge space (18).

16.(added) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 15, wherein the
carrier (25; 25') is press-fitted onto the end portion of the exhaust tube (26) which is situated in the
discharge space (18).

17.(added) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 16, wherein the
carrier (25; 25') comprises a further part (25B) which is arranged in a plane parallel to the
longitudinal axis (12; 12').

18.(added) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 16, wherein a
distance d between the carrier (25; 25') and the electrode (20; 20') lies in the range from $1 < d < 3$
mm.